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EXAMINER

PLUCINSKI, JAMISUE A

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to Amendment filed 12/6/06.
2. Claims 1-24 pending.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilz, Sr. et al. (6,394,354) in view of Reiter (7,062,474) and Bilibin et al. (US 2005/0197892).

5. With respect to **Claim 1**: Wilz discloses a method for providing a user with a personalized shipment system, comprising:

- a. registering a user by obtaining user data (Column 26, lines 60-65 wherein the user is the "shipper" and the shipper is given a unique Shipper Identification Number which Examiner considers to be the same as registering);
- b. associating the user data with a unique user identifier (Column 26, lines 60-65 wherein Examiner interprets the Shipper Identification Number to be equivalent to a "unique user identifier");
- c. generating label data for each of a plurality of labels (Column 26, lines 25-29), each label including a unique label identifier a machine language (Column 26, lines 25-29);

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- d. associating the label identifier with the user identifier in computer database (Column 26, lines 16-20 and also Column 26, 55-68);
  - e. receiving an item to be shipped including one of the labels and recipient data including a destination data of the item (Column 26, lines 25-30);
  - f. obtaining the unique label identifier and the machine language destination data from the item using a machine capable of reading the machine language during the shipment of the item (Column 26, 53-67 wherein Examiner considers Wilz's "unique number assigned to each package", line 61 to be equivalent to "unique label identifier" and "destination data" to be equivalent to "Destination Information Field" line 65);
  - g. recording in the computer database tracking data based on the machine language unique label identifier and the machine language data including the status of a package (Column 26, 55-60).
6. Wilz discloses putting shipping information into machine readable code, however, fails to disclose determining if the label is in machine readable format, and if it is not, then translating non-readable format into a machine readable format. Reiter discloses, using an OCR that reads the address information and translating that in a barcode and the non-machine readable letters are separated and turned to a separate barcode, therefor a determining step must be done (Column 5, lines 13-25). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Wilz to include the feature of determining if the data is in machine readable format, and if it is not, then converting the data into machine readable format, as disclosed by Reiter, in order to increase the efficiency in sorting and mailing, See Reiter Column 2.

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7. Wilz discloses tracking the package using the user identifier, however fails to disclose tracking the package data using only the user identifier. Bilibin discloses the use of a user registering with a system, and where the user ID is used and a package table associated with the user, is displayed (See Figure 9, reference numeral 33b, My Tracking, Figures 76-82 and Paragraphs 0408, 0476 to 0484), therefore the examiner considers this using only the user id to obtain tracking information. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wilz to include the package table of Bilibin, in order to easily look up information in a users account, and for a user to more easily keep track of his/her own shipments (See Bilibin, Pages 1, 28 and 29)

8. With respect to **Claim 2**: Wilz discloses the machine language unique label identifier and the machine language destination data are stored on the item in form one of a barcode and an RFID tag (Column 26, line 26 and Fig 11B).

9. With respect to **Claim 3**: Wilz discloses generating, using the label data, the plurality of labels by at least one of the user, postal delivery service and a predetermined third party provider (Column 26, 25-28).

10. With respect to **Claim 4**: Wilz discloses wherein the tracking data includes time data and location data corresponding to the scanning (Figure 11B, 55L).

11. With respect to **Claim 5**: Wilz discloses wherein the label data is stored in at least one of a barcode and an RFID tag (Column 26, line 26 and Fig 11B).

12. With respect to **Claim 6**: Wilz discloses the machine language destination data includes at least one recipient name and a recipient address code (Column 26, 25-29).

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13. With respect to **Claim 7**: Wilz discloses the machine language destination data includes a further code identifying each of a plurality of recipient names which have the same recipient address code (Column 26, 25-29).

14. With respect to **Claim 8**: Wilz discloses the label data includes optional additional data generated by the user (Column 27, 1-12 which discloses Delivery Instructions Field which is equivalent to optional additional data according to Applicant's specification Page 5 [0010] and Column 27, 20-30 wherein Wilz discloses explicitly an Other Information Field).

15. With respect to **Claim 9**: Wilz discloses wherein the label data, the destination data and postage data are stored on the label as a two-dimensional barcode (Fig 13, 57 and Column 26, 25-29).

16. With respect to **Claim 10**: Wilz discloses associating by the user the recipient address code with a predetermined recipient identifier (Fig 11B 55E and 55D, wherein Examiner considers the "Destination Identification Field" to be equivalent to the recipient identifier).

17. With respect to **Claim 11**: Wilz discloses the tracking data includes the optional additional data (Column 27, 1-12 which discloses Delivery Instructions Field which is equivalent to optional additional data according to Applicant's specification Page 5 [0010] and Column 27, 20-30 wherein Wilz discloses explicitly an Other Information Field and FIG 11B 55G).

18. With respect to **Claim 12**: Wilz discloses the tracking data includes an arrival date indicative of one an actual date and an estimated date of arrival of the item at the destination (See FIG 11B and Column 27, 12-13 wherein Wilz discloses disclosing the "expected date of deliver" which is the equivalent of the estimated date of arrival).

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19. With respect to **Claim 13**: Wilz discloses a system for providing a user with a personalized shipment system for shipment of an item, comprising:

- h. a first computing arrangement generating label data for each plurality of labels, each label including a unique label identifier in a machine language (Figs 8 and 9 and Column 26, 12-32);
- i. a second computing arrangement including a database and storing user data in the database, the second computing arrangement associating the user data with a unique user identifier and associating the unique label identifier with the user identifier in the database (Figs 8 and 9 and Column 26, 12-32);
- j. a first shipment processing arrangement receiving an item to be shipped (inherently Wilz must receive an item to be shipped), the item including one of the labels and recipient data including destination data of the item (Column 26, 25-29),
- k. a second shipment processing arrangement obtaining the machine language unique label identifier and the machine language destination data from the item during the shipment (Column 28, 34-43), the second shipment processing arrangement recording in the database tracking data based on the association of the label identifier and the destination data including the status of a package (Column 28, 45-50).

20. Wilz discloses putting shipping information into machine readable code, however, fails to disclose determining if the label is in machine readable format, and if it is not, then translating non-readable format into a machine readable format. Reiter discloses, using an OCR that reads the address information and translating that in a barcode and the non-machine readable letters are separated and turned to a separate barcode, therefor a determining step must be done

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(Column 5, lines 13-25). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the first shipment processing arrangement of Wilz to include the feature of determining if the data is in machine readable format, and if it is not, then converting the data into machine readable format, as disclosed by Reiter, in order to increase the efficiency in sorting and mailing, See Reiter Column 2.

21. Wilz discloses tracking the package using the user identifier, however fails to disclose tracking the package data using only the user identifier. Bilibin discloses the use of a user registering with a system, and where the user ID is used and a package table associated with the user, is displayed (See Figure 9, reference numeral 33b, My Tracking, Figures 76-82 and Paragraphs 0408, 0476 to 0484), therefore the examiner considers this using only the user id to obtain tracking information. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wilz to include the package table of Bilibin, in order to easily look up information in a users account, and for a user to more easily keep track of his/her own shipments (See Bilibin, Pages 1, 28 and 29)

22. With respect to **Claim 14**: Wilz discloses the machine language unique label identifier and the machine language destination data are stored on the item in one of a barcode and an RFID tag, and wherein the first shipment processing arrangement includes at least one of a barcode reader, a barcode writer, an RFID tag reader and an RFID tag writer (Figs 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 and Column 26, 25-29).

23. With respect to **Claim 15**: Wilz discloses a printing arrangement generating the plurality of labels by at least one of the user, a postal delivery service and a predetermined third party provider using the label data (Fig 9, 35 and Column 26, 25-29).



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24. With respect to **Claim 16**: Wilz discloses the printing arrangement includes at least one of a barcode writer and an RFID tag writer (Fig 9, 35 and 37 and Column 26, 25-29).
25. With respect to **Claim 17**: Wilz discloses the tracking data includes time and location data corresponding to receipt of the item by the second shipment processing arrangement (Fig 11B, 55M-J and Fig 14, A-C).
26. With respect to **Claim 18**: Wilz discloses the machine language recipient data includes at least one recipient name and a recipient address code (Column 26, 25-29).
27. With respect to **Claim 19**: Wilz discloses the machine language destination data includes a further code identifying each of a plurality of recipient names which have the same recipient address code (Figure 11B and Column 26, 65-67 wherein Wilz discloses a destination information field which is certainly capable of having a plurality of names which have the same recipient address code).
28. With respect to **Claim 20**: Wilz discloses the label data includes optional additional data generated by the user (Column 27, 1-12 which discloses Delivery Instructions Field which is equivalent to optional additional data according to Applicant's specification Page 5 [0010] and Column 27, 20-30 wherein Wilz discloses explicitly an Other Information Field).
29. With respect to **Claim 21**: Wilz discloses the label data, the machine language recipient data and postage data are stored on the label as a two-dimensional barcode (Fig 13, 57 and Column 26, 25-29).
30. With respect to **Claim 22**: Wilz discloses the user associates the recipient address with a recipient identifier (Column 26, 25-29).

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31. With respect to **Claim 23**: Wilz discloses the machine language recipient data includes a further code indicative of each of a plurality of recipients located at the destination (Figure 11B, 55D and Column 26, 65-67 wherein Wilz discloses a destination information field which the system is certainly capable of having a further code indicative of a plurality of recipients located at the destination because it also has a separate Zip Code field).

32. With respect to **Claim 24**: Wilz discloses the tracking data includes an arrival date indicative one of an actual date and an estimated date of arrival of the item at the destination (See FIG 11B and Column 27, 12-13 wherein Wilz discloses disclosing the “expected date of deliver” which is the equivalent of the estimated date of arrival).

#### *Response to Arguments*

33. Applicant's arguments filed 12/6/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

34. With respect to Applicant's argument that Bilbin does not disclose providing tracking data “using only the user identifier and the destination data included in the request”: The applicant has stated that Bilbin shows a system where a user ID is used and a package table associated with the user is displayed, however nowhere does Bilbin state or imply that the package table is displayed to the user, the package table is merely associated with a user table containing the user ID. However, the examiner has modified the citing of Bilbin to more clearly show the sections in the reference which does show this feature. In Figures 76 to 82, Bilbin discloses a Feature called Track It, where it discloses the user's tracking. When a user logs into the system, it keeps a shipping log of the user, where all packages are saved and tracked. The

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information (which is stored in the system as previously stated in paragraph 0408) is provided to the user based on the user logging in, provided using only the user ID, therefore the examiner considers Bilbin to disclose this feature. An external user wanting to look up tracking information is able to enter in a tracking number and track the packages, but a registered user is also allowed to track packages using a shipping log and a Track It page, based on the user. Argument is not considered to be persuasive, and rejection stands as stated above.

35. The applicant has argued all other rejections based on the fact that the other references do not cure the deficiencies of Bilbin. The examiner does not consider there to be a deficiency, therefore arguments are not considered to be persuasive, and rejections stand as stated above.

### *Conclusion*

36. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamisue A. Plucinski whose telephone number is (571) 272-6811.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (5:30 - 4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Jamisue Plucinski  
Patent Examiner  
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